

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of electioneering and demonstrates one of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But instead, Sinclair is choosing to air programming designed to smear Senator Kerry's name and to influence voters to re-elect President Bush.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them, and why the license renewal process needs to involve a much more stringent review of each applicant's record of legal compliance.